



PATENT  
5298-04100/PM00012

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**In re Application of:  
Qiao et al.**

Group Art Unit: 2813  
Examiner: Pham, T.

Serial No. 09/661,666

Atty. Dkt. No. 5298-04100

Filed: September 14, 2000

**For: METHOD OF FORMING SELF  
ALIGNED CONTACTS**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: **Box: Non-Fee Amendment**, Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date indicated below.

December 21, 2001  
Date

Kevin L. Daffer

**AMENDMENT; RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED SEPTEMBER 26, 2001**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir/ Madam:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed September 26, 2001 to further highlight reasons why the application is in condition for allowance.

**Please amend the case as follows:**

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel claim 6 without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter recited therein. Please replace claims 1, 5, 7, 11-13, 17, and 19-20 with the amended claims below. A "marked-up" version of each amendment is included in **Attachment A**.